

## AGENDA



Thursday, January 10, 2008

**Health and Human Services  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**
**Item No. 17**

**Subject:** Approve appointment of LINDA WILLIAMS DOOLEY, M.D. as Health Authority and designation of EDWARD MACLEOD RACHT, M.D. and BIRCH DUKE KIMBROUGH, M.D., each individually, as an Alternate Health Authority for Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department effective January 12, 2008.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department.

**Fiscal Note:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**For More Information:** David Lurie, HHSD Director, 972-5010; Dr. Linda Dooley, M.D., HHSD Acting Medical Director, 972-5459; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Linda Williams Dooley, M.D. will begin serving as Acting Medical Director for the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) effective January 12, 2008, to provide medical leadership in monitoring and responding to potential disease outbreaks and ensure that all medical-related activities in the department are performed in accordance with applicable license, regulatory and accreditation standards. As Acting Medical Director, she will also perform the duties of the Health Authority as described in State statutes (i.e., quarantine, required reporting of infectious diseases, birth and death records), City ordinance, and County regulations.

This RCA requests City Council to approve the appointment of Dr. Linda Dooley as Health Authority during the search for a replacement HHSD Medical Director. The regular two-year term for the Health Authority and Alternates are due to expire on January 31, 2008. With the approval of David Lurie, HHSD Director, Dr. Linda Dooley has designated Dr. Edward M. Racht and Dr. Birch Duke Kimbrough, each individually, as Alternate Health Authority.

Under state law (Health and Safety Code Section 121.029), the Health Authority may delegate any power or duty imposed on the health authority to a properly qualified physician to act while the health authority is absent or incapacitated. The physician designated by the health authority must:

- Meet license and residence requirements;
- Be appointed as a designee in the same manner as the Health Authority; and
- File the Oath of Office, executed by a duly appointed Notary Public, with the Texas Department of Health

The delegation is effective during the term of the Health Authority making the delegation; the Health Authority is responsible for the acts of the physician to whom the powers have been delegated; and the entity that appoints the Health Authority must have procedures in place to prevent duplication of authority and provide notice to the HHSD Director when authority is transferred. HHSD has had a "Delegation of Back-Up Health Authority" in effect since July 1, 2000.

**ELIGIBLE APPOINTEES**

Dr. Linda Williams Dooley received her M.D. from Texas Tech University School of Medicine and is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatrics. She joined HHSD on July 1, 1983, as Ambulatory Medicine

Clinician and Attending at South Austin Clinic and Central Texas Medical Foundation. She is currently the Medical Director for the Department's TB Elimination Program, serves as Medical Director of the STD Clinic, and as a physician at the David Powell Clinic. Dr. Dooley meets all of the requirements of the Health and Safety Code to be designated as Health Authority.

With the approval of the HHSD Director, Dr. Dooley has requested that Dr. Ed Racht and Dr. Duke Kimbrough, be designated, each individually, as an Alternate Health Authority.

Dr. Racht received his M.D. degree from Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, in 1984. His medical education included an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, Richmond, VA. He holds certification from the National Board of Medical Examiners (1985), is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine (1988) and numerous certifications in Cardiac Life Support, Trauma Life Support, Pediatric Life Support and Trauma Life Support. Dr. Racht began serving in 1995 as Medical Director of the City of Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services Clinical Practice and currently serves as Medical Director of the Austin/Travis County Office of Medical Director (A/TCOMD). Dr. Racht meets all of the requirements of the Health and Safety Code to be designated as an Alternate Health Authority.

Dr. Kimbrough received his medical degree from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio, TX. His medical education included an internship at North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill, NC and residencies in general surgery at North Carolina Memorial Hospital and Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA. He holds board certifications from the American Board of Surgery in General Surgery (1983; recertified 1991, 2003), American Board of Emergency Medicine (1992; recertified 2001) and numerous special certifications in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Advanced Trauma Life Support, and Swift Water Rescue. Dr. Kimbrough served as staff physician and Chief Medical Officer at several medical facilities during his military career and since 1993 has been a staff physician in the Emergency Department at South Austin Medical Center. Since 1989 he has been Medical Director of the Paramedic Technology Program at Austin Community College. Dr. Kimbrough also currently serves as an Associate Medical Director in the Austin/Travis County Office of Medical Director and meets all of the requirements of the Health and Safety Code to be designated as an Alternate Health Authority.

A current curriculum vitae is attached for the Health Authority and each Alternate Health Authority as well as the required appointing documents required by the Texas State Department of Health Services.